

355

The last Words and Confession of Margaret Inglis, who was Ex ecuted at ^KEdinburgh the 6th. of April

1709.

THis woman having Parents who have some Stok of means, fostered her self in a Beleit that she could procure her Pardon for mony and means were used to procure her Pardon but in vain, however it being but about a week since she began to dispair of Success she did not seem to have any sure able concern about Death till within a few days before her Execution when being informed by her Sister that all hopes of obtaining her pardon was over she began to be a little more concerned about her Condition but not to that degree that were to be wished, for notwithstanding the many Exhortations of Ministers, and others who came to Vⁱsit her, after the Sentance of Death, she never appeared to be duly affected and still denyed that she violently took away the Childs Life, tho' she could not deny that a dead Child was found in the House with her, and she in the condition of one that was lately brought to Bed, in the time she was in Labour she denyed that she was with Child, but a Lady who might be named that lived near her and was present did urge it upon her, and ordered some other neighbouring Women to look narrowly after her, by which means the matter was Discovered, and she secured, after which was brought to the Tolbooth, of Edinburgh, and since her Imprisonment indeavoured to alleviat the Crime, alledging that her Father was Instrumental of her Misfortune, because he would not consent to her Marrying of the Mau to whom she had the Child.

She even after all hopes of a Reprive she was over still continued little affected with her condition, and endeavoured by all means to deny or extenuate the matter, and did not seem to have any suitable Impression of her condition or future state, and gave but a very indifferant account of the grounds of her Faith to the Ministers, who came to Visite her since she was under Sentance of Death.

At the Scaffold before her Execution, she did not give full Satisfaction to the Ministers who attend her, neither with Respect to the grounds of her Hope, nor in a Confession of the Crime for which she Suffered; From whence all may take Warning to live a good Life, for it is not in the Power of any Mortal to Repent, when they List, tho they are fully Assur'd of Death's looking them in the Face.

The Confession and last Words of Bessy Turnbul, who was Executed at E: to Edinburgh, April 6th. 1709, for Murdering her own Child.

MURDER being one of the most heinous Sins prohibited in the second Table of the Law, is by the Law of GOD and all Nations, declar'd to be punishable by Death not only as the just desert of the Criminals but as a Terror to others also, and this particular Specie of Murder, a Woman destroying the Fruit of her own womb, is by the Laws of this Kingdom declar'd to be so odious, that pregnant presumptions are sustained as a Clear evidence against the Criminals, namely. That any woman being known to be with Child and not revealing the same to any during her pregnancies and not calling for assistance at the time of her Delivery, the Child being dead or a missing she is Chargeable with the Murder of it, By this special Law several Criminals are found guilty that otherways no clear proof could be made against, yet notwithstanding thereof some Criminals may escape due punishment for want of evidence against them even in the terms of the Law as this Malefactor in particular would have done, had not God been pleased to discover the Murder by pricking of her Conscience, so that she voluntarily Confessed the Fact while none accused her or look'd upon as Guilty.

This Woman being with Child, and carried it so close, That she was never suspect'd during the whole time of her Pregnancy, (and Bigness,) Nor even at the time of her Delivery, she confessed, that after she brought forth her Child, by Violent Hands she Murdered it, and threw it into a hole, and afterwards went to England, But stilli wherever she went, the innocent murdered Bab appeared before her, as she apprehended, which troubled her so much, that she came back again to the place where she committed the Murder, which was went to the Minister of the place and told him the whole matter and carried him to the place where she had buried the Infant, whereupon she was secured and sent in to Edinburgh to be tryed.

This Account she gave of the matter since she came to Prison, but of late that she brought forth the Child without help of Women. who severals were at hand, and a midwife also hard by, And says the Child was Dead Born she seem'd much more Affected then her Comrad, but not so much as could be wished, however she earnestly desir'd all Spectators to take Warning by her, and desir'd they might Pray for Her.